



What You Need to Know

a guide to good communication for legal professionals working with the Deaf community

DRAFT

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INTERESOURCE GROUP
— (IRELAND) LIMITED —

"A community good for disabled people is a great society for ALL people."

Dr Liisa Kauppinen

Former President, World Federation of the Deaf

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He has several years of experience in managing and promoting European Commission projects and has directed projects in over 17 countries. Currently he is chairman of the JUSTISIGNS project (2013-2106). He also was chairman of the following EU projects: MEDISIGNS (2010-2012), SIGNALL 3 (2009-2011); SIGNALL 2 (2007-2009); STEP (2006-2008); COMPETE (2005-2007); SIGNALL Project (2005-2007); FOSTER (2003-2005) and STREAM (2002-2004). He was project director of the DEAFVOC 2 (2008-2010) project, INNO-AT (2007-2009), EUROSIGNS 2 (2006-2008) and the INTERCOMM (2002-2004) projects. He was also Chairman of the MORPH project (2001-2003) which was nominated as one of the top 32 projects across Europe.

He is a senior consultant and advisor in human resource and business strategy and policy for a number of companies and organisations at board level in Ireland and his main area of professional interest is strategic HR policy development and practice. He has lectured in wide range of human resource management subjects at the Kemmy Business School, University of Limerick. He also lectures in the in digital media and accessible learning in Deaf studies at at the Centre for Deaf Studies at Trinity College Dublin.

He has authored/co-authored numerous reports and journal articles, and has presented papers internationally on a wide range of topics in such fields as strategic recruitment and human resource management; risk management in healthcare; and linguistic and intercultural competencies for international trade. He has also directed numerous research documentaries.

OVERVIEW OF JUSTISIGNS

There is a growing body of literature that examines sign language interpreting provisions and practices in legal contexts in various countries. The common theme is the limitations faced by deaf sign language users in gaining access to justice, either through inadequate interpreting provision, poor quality interpreting services, or lack of training, accreditation and standards for legal sign language interpreters and translators. Additionally legal professionals themselves are often unaware of Deaf cultural and linguistic nuances and the communication dynamic which is shaped by interpreted interactions. This knowledge gap arises from inadequate training amongst legal professionals such as the police, lawyers, court and prison personnel.

JUSTISIGNS represents a ground-breaking initiative which focusses on providing vocational educational training (VET) and continuous professional development (CPD) to three target groups:

- Qualified and qualifying signed language interpreters working in legal settings;
- Deaf community and Deaf sign language interpreters;
- Police and legal professionals.

The partnership is comprised of hearing and deaf experts, researchers and interpreter practitioners across Europe from the following organisations:

- Interesource Group (Ireland) Limited, Ireland.
- European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters (efsl), Belgium
- European Legal Interpreters & Translators Association (EULITA), Belgium
- KU Leuven, Faculty of Arts Campus Antwerpen, Belgium
- Centre for Deaf Studies, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland
- University of Applied Sciences of Special Needs Education, Switzerland
- Heriot Watt University, Scotland

The training content will be available using multiple resource which include:

- A blended-learning course for sign language interpreters, Deaf community members and front-line legal professionals available across the JUSTISIGNS European network mapped onto 10 ECTS.
- A European guide for signed language interpreters practicing in legal settings;
- A European guide for legal professionals working with Deaf communities and signed language interpreters to improve their communication skills;
- An information resource for Deaf people in their national sign language to create a better understand of legal interaction;
- Outreach seminars and awareness sessions for the Deaf community and legal profession;
- Specialist masterclasses for sign language interpreters;
- Practical training resources including posters, App, videos and case studies.

INTERESOURCE GROUP (IRELAND) LIMITED

Interesource Group (Ireland) Limited is an Irish SME specialising in vocational training, management training, research & development and project management. The company has a strong background, and a proven track record in developing business solutions in human resource management and business strategy, training and development, creative media film and web, publishing and printing and property and real estate consulting.

Interesource Group has been the promoter of several projects including MEDISIGNS (2010-2012) and SIGNALL³ (2009-2011) projects. All projects involves the development of an accredited courses in conjunction with the Centre for Deaf Studies at Trinity College Dublin along with international experts.

Former projects include SIGNALL II (with partners in Ireland, Czech Republic, Finland, Poland and the UK); SIGNALL 1 (with partners in Ireland, Czech Republic, Finland, Spain and the UK) which won a European Award for Languages in 2008 and the COMPETE project with partners from Ireland, Cyprus, Greece, Slovenia and the UK, which focused on international trade strategies. The FOSTER project which included partners from Ireland, Greece, Poland, Romania and Spain examined Social exclusion and work inclusion. Interesource Group also promoted STREAM - Strategic Training for Recruitment and Retention of Employees and Managers (2002-2004), upon which STEP was based. STREAM dealt with recruiting, training and retaining employees in the hotel sector in Ireland, Cyprus, Greece, Slovakia and the UK, while within STEP a 12-week course on HR for the hospitality sector was design for use in Ireland, Germany, Greece, Slovakia, Spain and the UK. Products included a series of guides for managers, a DVD documentary and a book of the international research, surveys and case studies. MORPH - Management of Risks and Practices in Healthcare - reported on clinical risk management practices and identified medico-legal best practices in healthcare in Ireland, the UK, Poland and Bulgaria, was completed in 2004 and products include a series of awareness leaflets, a book on the research and case studies, a training CD-ROM for healthcare practitioners and a DVD documentary. The MORPH project was nominated for a best-practice award in 2004. Past projects include REFLECT - Review of Foreign Languages and Cultural Training which provided an assessment of language and cultural training needs in Ireland, Great Britain, Portugal and Poland promoting the economic and mobility value of acquiring linguistic competencies. Products included reports and electronic training tools. ELISE - European Language and International Strategy Development for SMEs investigated the importance of cultural and linguistic capabilities for SMEs involved in international trade in the UK, Ireland, Sweden, the Netherlands and Denmark. INTERCOMM involved partners from Iceland, Portugal and the UK and dealt with Intercultural communication in international trade.

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The **European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters (efsl)** is a European membership led organisation of sign language interpreters consisting of national and regional associations, individual and associate members. With 31 members across 29 countries, efsli has a wide European network covering all the stakeholders in the sign language interpreter profession in Europe. Efsli also plays a pivotal role in influencing European policy in interpreting training, interpreting provision and accreditation. Efsli has a cooperative agreement with the European Union of the Deaf (EUD) to ensure that interpreting services and developments match the needs of the deaf sign language users in Europe. Efsli will continue to work with the JUSTISIGNS team and endorse training content and promote its use amongst its member association across the EU.

The **European Legal Interpreters' and Translators' Association (EULITA)** has members throughout the member states (EULITA) and has a remit to promote quality in legal interpreting and translation through the recognition of the professional status of legal interpreters and translators, the exchange of information and best practices in training and continuous professional development and the organisation of events on issues such as training, research, professionalism.

KU Leuven and the Faculty of Arts, Campus Sint-Andries Antwerpen, has an excellent international reputation in the fields of education and scholarly research. It offers a BA in Applied Language Studies and MAs in Interpreting, Translation, Multilingual Communication and Journalism Studies. In 2008 Flemish Sign Languages was integrated in these Programmes and as such the Faculty organises the only academic sign language interpreting training in Flanders, Belgium. Postgraduate education/training includes Programmes in Conference Interpreting, Literary Translation, Specialised Translation & Translation Technology and Court Interpreting and Court Translation.

The **Centre for Deaf Studies (CDS)** at Trinity College Dublin is internationally regarded as a centre of excellence in delivering 3rd level programmes and conducting world-class research. CDS has also contributed to community education, to social policy and is committed to bringing about meaningful positive change for Deaf community members. CDS has contributed towards the development of state examinations in ISL & liaises with organisations in the area of Deaf education. For example, CDS is a constituent member of the Deaf Education Task Force (convened by the Catholic Institute for Deaf People). CDS staff have contributed to national, European & International publications, including work for the National Council for Special Education and the Council of Europe's Language Policy Unit.

The **University of Applied Sciences for Special Needs Education (HfH)** offers two unique programs in German Switzerland (HfH), first in sign language interpreting (BA) and a training course for sign language instructors for more than over 25 years. The research history of these programs has long records in sign language linguistics and intercultural issues/Deaf culture, sign language assessment and other related issues. The makeup of staff consists of trained sign language interpreters who are experienced in interpreting in legal settings for Deaf clients. Interpreter training at the University is offered with any three-year programme which is full time which also includes 300 hours of practical training.

The **Centre for Translation & Interpreting Studies** in Scotland (CTISS) at Heriot Watt University combines the examination of translation, interpretations and communicative performances across spoken, signed, written and multimodal media. The Centre is part of The School of Management &

Languages (SML). Historically, the Department of Languages and Intercultural Studies' (LINCS) primary research focus has been in the field of Translation & Interpreting studies: it was with the express purpose of promoting such a focus that the Department was founded over 40 years ago. Staff are expert participants in court and police activities in Scotland, including the Institute for Policing Research and European Legal Interpreters and Translators Association. Academic staff are increasingly specialising in sign language studies and have been involved in various studies of interpreter-mediated communication in legal contexts. These activities have involved association with international partners in the UK, Finland, Greece, and Sweden, as well as the opportunity to work alongside the following Scottish and UK-wide organisations: Scottish Government's Equality Unit, Scottish Council on Deafness, Sign Linguistics Corpora Network, Scottish Deaf Association, British Deaf Association, Scottish Association of Sign Language Interpreters, Association of Sign Language Interpreters UK.

A few facts about Deaf people

- Deaf people (where the word *Deaf* is used with an uppercase D) refers to people who use their own national or regional sign language as a primary means of communication and identify with other Deaf persons.
- Audiological deafness is not enough to give automatic membership to the Deaf community.
- Deaf people are a cultural and linguistic minority in society. The Deaf Community is a group of people who share the same interests and experiences and have the same language. Not all people within the Deaf community are Deaf
- A Deaf person's preference to use sign language to communicate does not mean intellectual disadvantage because of not using spoken language.
- Most Deaf people are bilingual. They may know the written (or for some, the spoken) form of their national/regional (spoken) language. Many also may know another sign language.
- Deaf people vary like everyone else - in temperament, work rate, intelligence and special skills. Like everyone else, they expect to be respected for what they can do at work. They expect to contribute to the team like everyone else. Deaf people are different in the same way as everyone is different.

What is Deaf Culture?

- Deaf Culture is characterised by people who are culturally Deaf as opposed to those who are medically and audiological defines as “deaf”.
- ‘Membership’ of the Deaf community is generally acknowledged by Deaf people who for example have attended a Deaf school, regard sign language as a native language, rather than a language acquired for communication and where being Deaf is associated with individual and collective identity rather than hearing ability.
- Deaf cultures around the world differ just as “hearing” cultures also differ.
- Across the “Deaf world” deafness is not regarded as an ‘impairment’. Nor should Deaf people be labelled as people with a disability. Society (from a hearing perspective) has categorised Deaf people as ‘disabled’, and this is evident when examining Governments’ national data collection and CENSUS methodologies.
- Hearing people need to understand Deaf culture. This can be achieved easily, by understanding it and by making an effort to communicate by using a sign language, writing, or by allowing Deaf people to lip-read – depending on their preferred method. Many people use foreign language phrase books and travel guides when visiting new countries and cultures. The same efforts ought to be applied when living, working and socialising with Deaf people.

What's the difference between the big 'D' and the small 'd'?

Big 'D'

- Deaf with a big D is used to indicate those who identify themselves as part of the Deaf Community.
- Deaf people will use their national or regional sign language as their preferred language.
- They will share a sense of pride, association and belonging with other Deaf people as part of a wider Deaf Community.
- Deaf people see themselves as Deaf, not as people with a disability.
- Deaf people look at their lives from a Deaf perspective.

Small 'd'

- The term 'deaf people' include those who are deafened or hard of hearing.
- deaf people may learn a sign language later in life, but membership of the Deaf community also depends on attitude to deafness, being deaf and participating in the Deaf community.
- deaf people use spoken and written language.
- People who have become deafened or hard of hearing look at their lives from a hearing perspective
- Generally, deaf people see deafness as a medical diagnosis and many seek to improve the ability to hear through medical and technological interventions.

A bit about signed languages

- Deaf people use signed languages as their medium of expression. Signed languages, like spoken languages may differ from region to region and country to country.
- Signed languages are not ‘mime’ or gesture. One can express complex notions in a signed language just as in a spoken language.
- Deaf people may have varying standards of written English. Some Deaf people may use English better in some contexts than in others. For many Deaf people, written English is not their preferred language and as such their English will not necessarily follow English grammar, structure and syntax. This should not in anyway be seen as a mark of a Deaf person’s intellect. Hearing people too have different standards of written English.
- Signed languages are not international. Each region/country has its own signed language. The hands, eyes, shoulders and movements of the head, and some particular facial expressions articulate sign language. Signs are articulated in a given space in front of the signer, ranging from just above the signer’s head to the waist and extending outward away from the signer to just under the length of ones arm. However, international signs are often used in an international setting.
- Signed languages have their own structures and grammars. They do not mimic spoken language. So while English spoken in Ireland, the USA, Great Britain or indeed any predominantly English speaking country, can be widely understood by an English speaker, those using Irish Sign Language (ISL), American Sign Language (ASL) or British Sign Language (BSL), will not automatically understand each other.

Elements of a good communication strategy

- Deaf communities use sign language, often as their first language. If you are a legal professional and you have pre-arranged a meeting with a Deaf person and you want to ensure that the legal process is not compromised, then, you should take the responsibility to arrange to have a qualified interpreter present at all times. Even if the person/accused that you are interviewing prefers to use the a family member or there is someone at the police station who know some sign language, you must use professionally trained and qualified interpreters. Depending on the nature of the interaction, best practice dictates that you should have two interpreters who will take turns interpreting and will work as a team.
- In a casual encounter with a Deaf person, where a sign language interpreter may not be present, remember that communication is a two-way process. Rather than relying on your preferred method of communication, identify other acceptable means of communicating. This could be, for example, in the form of written dialogue using pen and paper (make sure to have a notepad and pen at hand). However, the preferred method of communication should be discussed with the person directly. Do not assume they will have the same preference as you.
- Be clear about the message you want to communicate.
- Be concise and get to the point. Avoid “legal speak”.
- Be prepared to repeat your message if necessary and be patient allowing a Deaf person to respond either through the interpreter, by writing notes or by speaking.
- Do not assume that a Deaf person doesn’t understand you because of their comprehension skills because they are Deaf. They simply may not understand you because your message is unclear. Do not cut the conversation short by saying something like “Don’t worry, it doesn’t matter”.
- Understand the ramifications for further legal proceedings if your communication process is flawed which can lead to the unfair treatment of the person in your custody.
- The best strategy is to learn the national sign language of your own country.

What do I need to know when I meet a Deaf person?

- If an interpreter is used, (which should be the case in police stations), remember that they have to reformulate your question or comment in another language. This means they need to wait until they see what the function of your comment is so they can make sure your message is appropriately translated into the signed language. There will often be a slight lag time.
- Do not infer the answer from a non-verbal cue from a Deaf person until their answer has been interpreted. A deaf person nodding may indicate they may be gesturing their understanding of the question being interpreted, rather than agreeing or say yes to the question.
- Allow a Deaf person to respond. Do not repeat the dialogue again and assume that the message was not understood. As in any conversation, if you are not understood you may be asked to repeat or clarify it. Avoid loaded questions.
- When an interpreter is present, you should speak to and face the Deaf person directly. The Deaf person will face towards the interpreter when your conversation is being signed. When the Deaf person responds, he or she will face you. Do not turn away because you do not understand sign language as this is considered rude. Maintain eye contact with the person with whom you are having the conversation, not the interpreter.
- A Deaf person's speech may sound somewhat different to that of a hearing person. Quality of speech is not an indicator of intellect so do not draw any inferences from a Deaf person's speech and voice. A Deaf person's ways of signing, facial expressions, body movements and gestures will vary hugely just in the same way as a hearing person's accent and non-verbal interaction.
- Remember that the written form of a national spoken language may be a second language for many Deaf people. Given this, you may spot grammatical errors in the writing style of Deaf people which is influenced by the grammar of their signed language. These characteristics are similar to those found in the writing styles of many non-native second language users.
- When you speak directly to a Deaf person, they will look at you and maintain eye contact. For many hearing people this may feel uncomfortable at first. It is a matter of getting used to maintaining eye gaze patterns. You should also maintain eye contact during your conversation.

How can I improve my communication skills?

- To get the attention of a Deaf person who is not looking at you, tap them gently on the arm or shoulder and wait until they have made eye contact with you. In larger group setting where several Deaf people are present you may also flash the lights on and off in the appropriate surroundings. Waving your hand to attract attention or creating a vibration such as stamping on the floor is also common.
- Don't use long-winded and complex sentences.
- Ask a Deaf person how they would like to communicate. Do not assume.
- Do not shout. Don't chew gum or your pen or cover your mouth while talking. Do not look away. Ensure that the place where you meet is well-lit with the light on you and not behind you. Do not stand in front of a brightly lit window.
- Speak directly to the Deaf person. Do not ask the interpreter to ask the Deaf person, for example *"Please ask John to take a seat"*.
- Deaf people rely on visual communication such as body language, expressions and gestures and many Deaf people do lip-read. Don't assume that all deaf people lip-read well. Ability to lip-read is not linked to deafness. Being able to lip-read well is often based on much guesswork and how much spoken language the deaf person knows, how easy you are to lip-read and the deaf person's knowledge of the topic at hand and also the lighting and their view of your face. The greater the distraction, the greater the difficulty in lip-reading.
- Ensure that the interpreter know the reason for the interviews and any alleged offence or the nature of the enquiry.
- Give the interpreter any contact details for the police case officer and location of the interview.nature of the enquiry.

I've never used an interpreter. What should I be aware of?

- Always use a qualified and appropriately trained sign language interpreter. The job of the interpreter is to interpret. They are professionals and abide by a code of practice. They are not there to express their opinions, intervene or 'help out' in a situation. However, your relationship must be pleasant and bear in mind that interpreters require regular breaks as their task is cognitively demanding.
- Depending on the formality or complexity of the discussion, ensure that the interpreter, whether requested by the hearing or the Deaf party, is given as much information about the legal process in advance as possible. Where possible, explain to the interpreters the process that has to be followed so that they prepare as best as possible,
- Depending on the complexity of the interaction, interpreting team will swap with one another. While one interpreter is translating the other may be assisting or clarifying. Good interpreting requires good teamwork.
- The interpreter should not enter into the discourse themselves but they may need to seek clarification from you or the Deaf person.
- Just because somebody that you know through family, friends or work may have sign language skills, do not confuse this with professional sign language interpreting. Using unqualified interpreters does not guarantee accuracy nor confidentiality.
- Depending on the legal process, you may need to re-book the interpreter on more than one occasion. Let them or the booking agency know of your requirements so that they are available as interpreters are often in high demand during peak times such as during college exams.
- The interpreter's role is to interpret. It is not the interpreter's responsibility to re-iterate the message, comfort, seek to ensure that the message is understood or "explain it later". While the interpreter may be a third person in the room, the interpreter is not the third-party to the conversation

How can the arrest process go as smoothly as possible?

- The ideal scenario for the arresting law enforcement team is to be aware that the suspect is a Deaf sign language user. This will allow the arrest to be conducted with an interpreter present. There are three scenarios that need to be considered here:

(1) UNANTICIPATED INTERACTION WITH RESTRAINT

The arrest is being made in an unanticipated situation (public disorder, violence, drunk and disorderly behaviour). The interpreter is not present and the law enforcement officer is forced to restrain the Deaf suspect and will be required to use handcuffs. If this is necessary, subsequent communication is restricted as you have curtailed a Deaf sign language user from naturally using their hands to communicate. This can be a source of aggravation as sign language users will rely on their hands being free to sign. Where this is the likely approach, a small card letting the person know that an interpreter will be provided as soon as one becomes available may put the agitated person at ease.

(2) ROUTINE/ UNANTICIPATED INTERACTION WITHOUT RESTRAINT

An example of routine questioning, for example arising from a potential speed violation on the roadside. Here the police officer learns that the person being questioned is deaf and uses sign language. Written cue cards with typically routine questions may be shown to the driver. For example: asking the person to show their licence, insurance, if they have consumed alcohol and also likely courses of actions as a result of their responses can also be shown.

(3) ANTICIPATED/PLANNED INTERACTION

The arrest is anticipated and the law enforcement team plans the arrest and they are accompanied by at least one sign language interpreter. This limits any communication barrier.

- Many countries have interpreted video relay services (VRS) which may be available on subscription. For incidental cases, remote VRS is very useful and very affordable. In Ireland this is available through *IRIS* through Sign Language Interpreting Service (SLIS). For further information You can the IRIS service by email on remote@slis.ie or by phone or text on 087 980 6996. This is not suitable circumstances as it is advisable to have two interpreters present in serious and complex cases.

Preparation for interpreted interactions

(adapted from Hann & Tate 2010)

- It is likely that the interviewing officer will not have worked with a sign language interpreter. The interpreter may need to provide some brief interpreter and cultural awareness to the interviewing officer to support the interpreting process.
- Before meeting the person(s) being interviewed, interpreters need some background information of the reasons for the interview to give them some context that will help when interpreting. Any known information will help interpreting in the interview. Also the names and roles all of people in attendance at the station (solicitors, appropriate adults, etc) will help the interpreter to reference the individuals when speaking or signing.
- Introduce the interpreter to the Deaf sign language user being interviewed and allow time for them both to become accustomed to each other's communication style. The interpreter will explain their role and that being employed by the Police means that anything signed related to the enquiry or offence has to be conveyed to the Police.
- The interpreter will inform the interviewing/custody officer of any communication difficulties.

Preparing for the interview

- If the interview is conducted with a video recording (with audio), this will capture both the source and target languages (the sign language and spoken English) – enabling future scrutiny of the interpretation. It is necessary to ensure that both the interpreter and the Deaf sign language user are clearly visible on camera (with good lighting and at an angle where the hands and face of both are in view).
- Be mindful that if interviews are conducted with only audio recording plus contemporaneous notes there will be no record of the actual signed utterances of the Deaf sign language user. There will only be written notes and audio of the interpreters' voice – in other words the interpretation.
- At the end, the interviewing officer may read the written statement back to the Deaf sign language user – this is a back translation of the original interpretation. It is a way for the interviewee to check they agree with the interpreter's translation. However, this would not be

consent to the interviewee's understanding of the English, as it is again being interpreted by the interpreter and is not the actual written English of the statement.

- The custody officer may also expect the interpreter to interpret the private legal conference of the solicitor with the suspect. Where practicable it is better to have a separate interpreter for the custody officer and solicitor – because of the risk of impartiality being compromised. If this is not possible and the interpreter is needed to interpret for both parties then this needs to be acknowledged explicitly by the custody officer in writing through mention in the interview statement. Qualified interpreters are professionally bound by Codes of Conduct regarding impartiality and confidentiality.
- The interviewing officer and interpreter will need to be clear about practical arrangements within the interviewing suite: Sign language/English interpreting needs to take place with the interpreter facing the interviewee and the police officer to the side of the interpreter. Interpreting has both physical and mental effects. The interviewing officer will need to arrange with the interpreter appropriate interview breaks and will need to be provided with water.
- At the end of the interview the interviewing officer is required to ask the interpreter to sign a statement confirming they were present and also confirming they have acted responsibly and professionally. This needs to confirm the name and professional organisation of the interpreter and that the interpreter has acted impartially and accurately with regard to their interpreting. This could later become a court exhibit.

The Interview

- As with any interpreting situation, it may be important to intervene for clarification where necessary. This promotes understanding between parties.
- An interviewee or suspect may nod or indicate by a shake of the head – this non-verbal information may need to be interpreted for the benefit of the audio tape recording or written statement.
- There will be ongoing linguistic issues for the interpreter to negotiate during the dialogue that the two parties are unaware of. Information is encoded very differently in a sign language and English. Minute details are often very important. It may be necessary for the interpreter to intervene to clearly understand topographical information about an event or a scene to produce an accurate interpretation.

- If and when the caution is given (the right to silence), the officer needs to consider the obligatory implications for the interpreter in translating what is a very complex and densely structured legal right (Miranda rights or equivalent). It is usually spoken in its exact, frozen legal form initially and then the meaning and its implications explained in plain English. The officer is speaking the exact words of a densely written construction that is far from natural spoken English yet the interpreter is obligated to ensure the meaning is accurately conveyed. This taxes the skills of live interpreting.
- After the formal legal form is read and interpreted, the interviewing officer will clarify the meaning for the interviewee during the usual explanation of its implications. It is the responsibility of the interviewing officer to ensure that the meaning and effect of the caution are understood.
- If the interviewee is charged the officer will read out the relevant law. This is often complex. The officer can aide the interpreter by pausing at the end of sentences and allowing the interpreter to interpret this consecutively.
- Interpreters should not be left alone with the interviewee at the end of the interview or at any point during the interview.

After the Interview

- The interpreter at a police interview could become a prosecution witness and may be called to give evidence in court regarding the interpretation. The interpreter at the police interview is therefore unable to interpret for the case at court.
- If the offence is indictable then fingerprints, photographs and a DNA sample will be taken. It will be necessary for the police officer to ensure the interpreter is present to interpret these procedures.
- A decision may be made to bail a defendant. This needs to be interpreted.
- The officer should ensure the interpreter fills out the police claim form for interpreting services or countersigns any required forms when the service has been booked via an agency.

The United Nations Conventions on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) aims to guarantee equal rights for persons with disabilities to enjoy physical, social, economic, and cultural rights covering issues related to the environment, health, education, information, and communication. WFD's objective was to ensure that Deaf people would be able to enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms that are experienced by all other citizens.

The Convention and its Optional Protocol was adopted on 13 December 2006 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, and was opened for signature on 30 March 2007. There were 82 signatories to the Convention, 44 signatories to the Optional Protocol, and 1 ratification of the Convention. This is the highest number of signatories in history to a UN Convention on its opening day. It is the first comprehensive human rights treaty of the 21st century and is the first human rights convention to be open for signature by regional integration organisations. The Convention entered into force on 3 May 2008.

The Convention marks a "paradigm shift" in attitudes and approaches to persons with disabilities. It takes to a new height the movement from viewing persons with disabilities as "objects" of charity, medical treatment and social protection towards viewing persons with disabilities as "subjects" with rights, who are capable of claiming those rights and making decisions for their lives based on their free and informed consent as well as being active members of society.

WFD's main objective in the process, however, was to ensure that Deaf people's linguistic rights would be recognised within the Convention. WFD actively participated in joint presentations with associations of people with disabilities and informed and asked WFD's own members to lobby for WFD's goals in their respective countries via their state delegates.

As a result all WFD's objectives on signed languages were approved within the framework of the Convention. Many rights are mentioned generally level and these can be interpreted together with those articles where signed languages are mentioned. Non-discrimination on the basis of language and linguistic rights is mentioned in many segments of the Convention, including in the preamble.

Signed languages are mentioned 8 times in 5 different articles:

(i)	Article 2	Definition
(ii)	Article 9	Accessibility
(iii)	Article 21	Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information
(iv)	Article 21(e)	Recognizing and promoting the use of signed languages
(v)	Article 24.3 (b)	Education
(vi)	Article 24.3 (c)	Education
(vii)	Article 24.3 (e)	Education
(viii)	Article 30:	Participation in cultural life, recreation leisure and sport.

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<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?navid=13&pid=150>

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